Applicant : Shackleford et al.
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5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said determining topology [[(310)]] step further includes: pruning said interconnection topologies to reject interconnection topologies for which no input of a cell of said CA-based RNG candidate is connected to said cell's output.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said determining topology [[(310)]] step further includes: pruning said interconnection topologies to reject interconnection topologies for which displacement values for all inputs for a cell are evenly divisible by a length of said CA-based RNG for any displacement values whose absolute value is greater than 1.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said screening [[(320)]] step includes: calculating entropy of said CA-based RNG candidate; and accepting said CA-based RNG candidate for testing based on one or more predetermined criteria.

15. (Currently Amended)The CA-based RNG implementing-module of claim __14__ [[13]], wherein said screening-module comprises: an entropy-calculating-module calculating entropy of

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said CA-based RNG candidate; and a sorting-module accepting or rejecting said CA-based RNG

candidate for testing based on a predetermined criteria.

Please add claim 23 as follows:

23. (New) An apparatus for implementing a cellular automata based random number generator

(CA-based RNG), comprising:

        means for determining an interconnection topology;

        means for screening a CA-based RNG candidate based on said interconnection topology;

and

        means for subjecting said CA-based RNG candidate to a suite of random number tests in

response to said CA-based RNG passing said screening step.

In the drawings:

Please substitute FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B in the attached response for FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B
respectively filed in the application as filed.

<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-22 in the present

application. Examiner noted several informalities needing attention, namely, 1) updating co-

pending application status 2) correcting grammar in specification and 3) modifying dependencies

in claim 15. Applicants have addressed these informalities and in addition identified other

informalities in claims 4, 5, 6, and 7 as well as modifying FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B to be consistent